

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3284
ANSWERED ON 21/03/2023

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE UNDER PMGSY

3284. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some proposals are pending for environmental and forestry clearance under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Ministry of Rural Development has taken up the said matter with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to accord approval to the pending proposals at the earliest?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) to (d): As per the information available with the Ministry, there are 322 works under the various verticals of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism Areas (RCPLWEA) which are pending due to environmental and forestry clearance . The State-wise details are as below:

No.	State	No of pending works
1	Andhra Pradesh	32
2	Bihar	38
3	Jammu & Kashmir	4
4	Jharkhand	16
5	Madhya Pradesh	29
6	Odisha	1
7	Sikkim	1
8	Telangana	195
9	Uttar Pradesh	4
10	Uttarakhand	2
Total		322

As per programme guidelines, the State Governments are responsible for ensuring that lands are available and free from all encumbrances, along the entire proposed alignment, for taking up the proposed road works under PMGSY and RCPLWEA. The State Governments are required to lay down guidelines for voluntary donation, exchange or other mechanisms to ensure availability of land for all proposed roads. Most of PMGSY roads are of short length and require diversion of land less than 1 hectare. In these cases, the power for issuance of NOC is delegated to the Nodal Department of the State Government. In the cases of linear projects, including roads, the powers for diversion is delegated to the Regional Offices of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The State Governments coordinate with the Nodal State Government Department/ Regional Offices of

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for all cases of No Objection for utilization of forest land for PMGSY roads. Necessary support in this regard is extended to the States by the Ministry from time to time. A meeting between Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Secretary, Rural Development was also held on 8th February, 2021 to discuss pending PMGSY projects for want of forest/ wildlife clearances.

The issue of incomplete road works for want of forest clearance is also reviewed regularly by the Ministry during Regional Review Meetings (RRMs). Performance Review Committee (PRC) Meetings & Pre-Empowered/Empowered Committee Meetings with the State authorities. In addition to this, special review meetings/ monthly review meetings are also held at the level of Secretary/ Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development with Chief Secretaries/Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/ Chief Executive Officer-SRRDAs of the States. Review meetings are also held by the Minister with counterpart State Ministers. The State Governments are regularly advised to convene meetings with the concerned authorities in Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to expedite such matters.
